

Message Text

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TAGS: PFOR, EGEN, EEC, US

SUBJECT: EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS COMMENT ON TINDEMANS' PROPOSALS
FOR EC/US RELATIONS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 00731

1. DURING MEETINGS WITH EURO/RPE DIRECTOR PREEG TWO WELL-
PLACED EC COMMISSION OFFICIALS CAST FURTHER DOUBTS ON THE
ADVISABILITY OF TINDEMANS' PROPOSALS ON US/EC RELATIONS.
EC COMMISSION PRESIDENT ORTOLI'S CHEF DE CABINET DE MARGERIE
SAID THAT ORTOLI SHARED THE MISGIVINGS OF OTHERS ABOUT
TINDEMANS' PROPOSAL THAT THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL DESIGNATE
ONE OF THE NINE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT TO CONSULT WITH US ON
THE "CHARACTER AND SCOPE" OF OUR RELATIONS. HE DID SAY,
HOWEVER, THAT ORTOLI THOUGHT THAT IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO
CONSIDER SOMETHING ALONG THE LINES OF "ENHANCED CONSULTA-
TIONS" WITH THE US. (DE MARGERIE EXPRESSED HIS PERSONAL
VIEW THAT IT WOULD BE A MISTAKE TO RESURRECT AT THE PRESENT
TIME THE PROPOSAL FOR A MEETING BETWEEN THE EC-9 POLITICAL
DIRECTORS AND APPROPRIATE US OFFICIALS ON THE GROUNDS
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THAT THE FRENCH WOULD BE STRONGLY OPPOSED.)

2. IN THIS SAME VEIN EC COMMISSION VICE PRESIDENT SOAMES' CHEF DE CABINET HANNAY SAID THAT IN HIS VIEW IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF THE US COULD EXPRESS EARLY ITS VIEWS ON THE TINDEMANS' PROPOSALS. HE FELT THAT THE EUROPEANS MIGHT BE LOATH TO OPPOSE THE SUGGESTION THAT A SINGLE INTERLOCUTOR DISCUSS WITH THE US A SET OF PRINCIPLES GOVERNING THE CONTENT AND PROCEDURES FOR US-EC CONSULTATIONS FOR FEAR THAT REFUSAL WOULD BE READ AS LACK OF CONCERN FOR US/EC RELATIONS. HOWEVER, IN HANNAY'S VIEW, UNLESS THESE IDEAS WERE KILLED SOON, THEY COULD POSSIBLY HAVE A LONG AND COMPLICATED LIFE, WITH POSSIBLY HARMFUL RESULTS IN THE END, E.G., FIGHTS AMONG THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OVER WHO WOULD BE THE CHOSEN AGENT. THOUGH NEGATIVE ON THE DETAILS OF THE TINDEMANS' PROPOSALS FOR DESIGNATING A HEAD OF GOVERNMENT AND FOR AN EXAMINATION OF PRINCIPLES, HANNAY FELT THAT TINDEMANS WAS CORRECT IN HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE OF US/EC CONSULTATIONS. HE THOUGHT THAT TINDEMANS' PROPOSAL MIGHT BE USED AS AN INCENTIVE TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND THE CURRENT CONSULTATION CHANNELS, WHICH HE FELT HAD ALREADY PROVED TO BE VERY VALUABLE. HANNAY'S VIEW WAS THAT WE MUST BUILD ON WHAT WE HAVE.

3. COMMENT: HANNAY DID NOT PUSH SOAMES' IDEA (REFTEL) THAT THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS INITIATE ANNUAL OR SEMI-ANNUAL CONSULTATION WITH THE US SECRETARY OF STATE, AND WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER OR NOT THIS INDICATES THAT SOAMES HAS BACKED AWAY FROM THIS PROPOSAL. HOWEVER WE CONTINUE TO ADVOCATE RECOMMENDATION IN PARAGRAPH 6 IN REFTEL THAT WE BEGIN QUIET DISCUSSION WITH KEY OFFICIALS TO POINT OUT PROBLEMS WE SEE WITH TINDEMANS' PROPOSALS. MORRIS

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